

Applicant : Bradley L. Busscher et al.
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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An exterior rearview mirror assembly comprising:
[a] an electrochromic mirror element having a front surface and a rear surface, the electrochromic mirror element having a portion allowing light to pass therethrough;
a member located adjacent the rear surface of the electrochromic mirror element, the member including an area aligned with the portion of the electrochromic mirror element; and
a light source emitting light, the light being directed at the area;
the area of the member and the portion of the electrochromic mirror element allowing light from the light source to pass therethrough;
wherein the area includes a diffuser to diffuse light passing through the electrochromic mirror element.
3. (Currently Amended) The exterior rearview mirror assembly of claim 2, wherein: the electrochromic mirror element comprises an electrochromic mirror subassembly including a front glass element and a rear glass element, with electrochromic material located between the front glass element and the rear glass element.
4. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 2, wherein: the light source comprises a LED.
5. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 2, wherein: the diffuser is directly applied to the member.
6. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 5, wherein: the diffuser is a light diffusing panel placed over the area.
7. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 2, wherein: the diffuser is applied to a surface of the member in the area.

8. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 7, wherein:
the diffuser comprises a roughening of the surface.
9. (Currently Amended) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 2, wherein:
the light source directs the light at the portion of the electrochromic mirror element.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling an exterior rearview mirror assembly comprising:
 providing an electrochromic mirror element;
 providing a member having an area adapted to allow light to pass therethrough;
 positioning the member adjacent the electrochromic mirror element; and
 treating the area of the member to diffuse the light passing through the member.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
treating comprises directly applying a panel to the member.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
treating comprises treating a surface of the member in the area.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein:
treating comprises roughening the surface.
14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for an exterior vehicle mirror assembly including
[a] an electrochromic reflective element having inner and outer surfaces and a light source
positioned to direct light toward the inner surface of the electrochromic reflective element, the
apparatus comprising:
 a member extending between the inner surface of the electrochromic reflective element
and the light source, the member including an area adapted to allow light from the light source
to pass therethrough; and
 a light diffuser positioned over the area of the member to diffuse light passing through
the electrochromic reflective element.

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15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:
the diffuser is directly applied to the [element] member.
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:
the diffuser is a light diffusing panel placed over the area.
17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:
the diffuser is applied to a surface of the [element] member in the area.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein:
the diffuser comprises roughening the surface.
19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for an exterior vehicle mirror assembly including
a reflective element having inner and outer surfaces and a light source positioned to direct light
toward the inner surface of the reflective element, the apparatus comprising:
a member extending between the inner surface of the reflective element and the light
source, the member including an area adapted to allow light from the light source to pass
therethrough;
a conductive layer deposited on the member; and
a light diffuser positioned over an area of the element to diffuse light passing through
the member.
20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein:
the diffuser is directly applied to the member.
21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein:
the diffuser is a light diffusing panel placed over the area.
22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein:
the diffuser is applied to a surface of the member in the area.

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23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein:
the diffuser comprises roughening the surface.
24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for an exterior vehicle mirror assembly including a reflective element having inner and outer surfaces and a light source positioned to direct light toward the inner surface of the reflective element, the apparatus comprising:
a member extending between the inner surface of the reflective element and the light source, the member including an area adapted to allow light from the light source to pass therethrough, the member including a conductive layer;
the member comprising a material which is substantially impermeable to light except for a patterned opening to allow light to pass therethrough; and
a light diffuser positioned over the area of the member to diffuse light passing through the member.
25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:
the diffuser is directly applied to the member.
26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein:
the diffuser is a light diffusing panel placed over the area.
27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:
the diffuser is applied to a surface of the element in the area.
28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein:
the diffuser comprises roughening the surface.
29. (Previously Presented) An exterior rearview mirror assembly for a vehicle comprising:
a mirror element;
a heater positioned relative to the mirror element for heating the mirror element, the heater including an area for letting light pass therethrough; and

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a light source emitting light, the light being directed at the area;
the area diffusing the light so that the light passing therethrough is uniformly distributed.

30. (Previously Presented) The exterior rearview mirror assembly of claim 29, wherein:
the mirror element comprises an electrochromic mirror subassembly including a front glass element and a rear glass element, with electrochromic material located between the front glass element and the rear glass element.
31. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 30, wherein:
the light source comprises a LED.
32. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 29, wherein:
the area comprises a diffuser directly applied to the area.
33. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 32, wherein:
the diffuser is a light diffusing panel placed over the area.
34. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 29, wherein:
the area comprises a diffuser applied to a surface of the member in the area.
35. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 34, wherein:
the diffuser comprises roughening the surface.
36. (Previously Presented) The exterior vehicle mirror assembly of claim 29, wherein:
the light source directs the light at the portion of the mirror element.